

speaking English, but they can say "Wellstone."

I know I will forever be humbled by the oath I took to be a Senator from Minnesota. I know that not I nor anyone else can truly follow in Paul's footsteps. But he is an inspiration for us all.

Paul was my friend and mentor. He taught me how to campaign on a city bus. When I first ran for office, for county attorney, we would get on a city bus and work the entire bus. We would meet everybody on the bus. When we would get to the end of 8 blocks, we would say we are at our stop and get off. Then we would get back on a bus going the other way. We would go around for hours until we met everybody on those buses in Minneapolis that afternoon. He worked bus by bus, block by block, precinct by precinct to touch people in a way that made people believe, made people know that involvement in politics could make a real difference in their lives. That is what he told those new immigrants, new citizens. He told them that involvement in politics could make a difference in their lives. He did it not only by his words but by how much he went out and touched them and were a part of their life.

Paul was a crusader and a man with many passions. Anyone who ever met or talked with him quickly found out he had a special passion for helping those with mental illness. That was shaped by the suffering of a member of his own family. Many of you may know Paul's story about his brother Stephen.

As a young child, Paul watched his brother's traumatic descent into mental illness. When Stephen was a freshman in college, he suffered a severe mental breakdown and ended up spending the next 2 years in mental hospitals. Eventually, he recovered and graduated from college with honors. But it took his immigrant parents years to pay off the hospital bills.

Writing about this, Paul recalled the years that his brother was hospitalized. "For two years," he wrote, "the house always seemed dark to me—even when the lights were on. It was such a sad home."

Decades later, Paul knew there were still far too many sad homes in our great Nation—too many families devastated by the physical and financial consequences of mental illness.

Paul knew we could and we should do better. For years, he fought to allocate funding for better care, better services, and better representation for the mentally ill. For years, he fought for mental health parity in health insurance coverage.

Finally, this year, at last, it looks as if Paul's dream may finally come true. Last month, the Senate unanimously voted in support of legislation that will guarantee equity for mental health insurance coverage.

This will be a victory—if we can get this passed and work with the House and get as strong a bill as possible—for

millions of Americans living with these mental illnesses who have faced unfair discrimination in their access to affordable, appropriate health care and treatment.

For Paul, this was always a matter of civil rights, of justice, and of basic human decency.

Of course, on this issue—as every other issue—Sheila and Paul were together and they moved quickly. Paul and Sheila had so much energy, and they were always on the move. They brought such enthusiasm and joy to their work. They were animated, tireless, and persistent in their fight against injustice.

Sheila Wellstone was a leader in her own right. I had the opportunity to work closely with her when I was the chief prosecutor for Hennepin County. They focused on domestic violence. She was instrumental in creating the Hennepin County Domestic Abuse Service Center, which I supervised during my 8 years as county attorney. That center is a national, an international, model for serving the victims of domestic violence by bringing together a full range of services and resources in one central, convenient location. Victims of domestic violence don't have to go through the redtape that would even be hard for a lawyer to figure out. There is a center where children can come and play, for prosecutors and police, and a shelter, all located under one roof.

Sheila knew the statistics on domestic violence. She knew these kids are six times more likely to commit suicide if they grew up in a home with domestic violence. They are 24 times more likely to commit sexual assaults. They are 60 times more likely to exhibit delinquent behavior. Most chilling of all, little boys who would witness domestic violence are 100 times more likely to become abusers themselves.

Sheila knew these numbers, but even more, she knew the names and the faces of the victims of domestic violence. She knew their children. It made her all the more determined to do something about it because, in America, of all places, kids should be free to grow up with safety and security and peace of mind.

I remember the last time I saw Sheila and Paul. It was a few weeks before the tragic crash. Sheila and I had been asked to speak to a group of new citizens, immigrants from Russia. It was a very small group. There were about 50 people there. We talked about our own immigrant experiences. She talked about her parents and growing up in Appalachia, and I talked about my Slovenian relatives coming over and making their way, saving money in a coffee can in the basement so they could send my dad to college.

We were in the middle of these stories in this very small room. All of a sudden I walked Paul. He wasn't supposed to be there. He had gotten an early flight home from Washington. He

wasn't supposed to be there because he was about a month out on one of the biggest elections for the Senate in the country. He had voted, had taken a brave vote, a courageous vote against the resolution on Iraq. He knew he was up for reelection. He knew it might cost him the election, but he did the right thing.

He came into that room where there was no press, no reporters, and a few weeks before this election. At the time I thought: Why did he do this when he has to be out there campaigning? I knew then that there were two reasons he did it. First is that he loved Sheila and he wanted to surprise her, and he wanted to be there by her side while she gave her speech and gave her remarks. But he was also there because he embraced the immigrant experience. He liked nothing more than talking about how you can come to this country with nothing and pull yourself up by your bootstraps. You can be a guy working 1,500 feet underground in the mines in Ely, MN, and your granddaughter can be a Senator. You can be someone with mental illness, such as Paul's brother, and grow up to get a college degree and be a teacher. You can be a victim of domestic violence and get your life back together and have a home for your kids. That is what Paul and Sheila stood for. That was their legacy.

Today in our State of Minnesota and throughout this country and this Capitol, we think of them and what they stood for, and we pledge to work again to fill their legacy.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it is my understanding we are still in the majority's time period. I ask unanimous consent that it be set aside and reserved and that I be allowed to address the Senate in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I am delighted to come to the floor today. I heard this morning the announcement by the Democratic leader, Mr. REID, that we probably will not bring the remaining five appropriations bills to the floor of the Senate before the year is out. Quite frankly, when the Republicans or Democrats have been in charge lately, it seems we have gotten into this situation going well past the fiscal year without acting on all the appropriations acts.

It seems to me as if, my ninth year in the Congress and my third year in the

Senate, more often than not we end up with minibuses or omnibuses. We roll tremendous appropriations bills one into the other, pass them at the end of the night, and find out weeks later what is in them. That is not good regardless of your party, and it is certainly not good for the United States of America.

I come to the floor this morning to talk about some suggestions that have been made by some very distinguished and learned Members of this body on both sides of the aisle about opening our appropriations process, diagnosing the problems with it, and fixing it statutorily.

I particularly call the attention of the body to Senator DOMENICI from New Mexico, one of the longest serving Members of the Senate. He will be retiring at the end of next year. He has introduced consistently every year a biennial budget. The idea is that we appropriate in 2-year bites rather than a 1-year bite, and we do oversight in the second year.

Think about this for a second. What if the Congress did appropriations bills in odd-numbered years, meaning we spent the money in odd-numbered years and in even-numbered years, the same year we are up for reelection, we do oversight. So all of a sudden our debate and races are not about what we are going to spend but how our money is being spent. That is responsible, it is smart, and it makes sense.

Those who object will jump up and say: Oh, well, then we will just have a lot of emergency appropriations bills. Give me a break. Have you seen how many emergencies we have done in the last 2 years? We have emergencies come up all the time. Of course, you are going to have those. The emergency that exists is not the fear of having an emergency but the fact that once again this year we have gone past the end of the fiscal year, and we are operating under a continuing resolution. The United States has an untold number of issues that must be dealt with, and we are on cruise control in terms of the appropriations of our country. It is not right.

Now, I have voted for some appropriations bills, and I have voted against some appropriations bills. I am glad we have gotten seven done. But we have five out there that all of a sudden are probably going to get rolled in with about three or four others, get vetoed, and then get rolled into an omnibus. We will fly in here in the dead of night, have a document on our desk that is probably as thick as five or six concrete blocks stacked on top of one another, in very fine print, and we will be asked to cast a vote on how we are going to spend the money of the taxpayers of the United States. It is not right.

We need to look at new and creative ways to run the Government of the United States and its fiscal affairs. I commend Senator DOMENICI's appropriations recommendation and the idea

of the biannual budget, and I encourage this body to start looking at a constructive solution like that. Senator VOINOVICH, who ran the State of Ohio—he has been a Governor—and is as sound a fiscal person as you want to find in this Senate, pointed out as well yesterday that the whole situation is just broken. We have entitlements on cruise control, discretionary spending in a continuing resolution, and we in the Congress fight over little tiny parts of the appropriations process when we ought to be considering it in its totality. We should take each of the 12 budget units, bring them to the floor, debate them, pass them, and send them to the President. Do them responsibly, as we are expected to do.

When the announcement was made that we are not going to get to five appropriations bills this year, there was also an announcement that we are going to have an Omnibus appropriations bill. We are going to roll all the bills into one, not debate them, not make decisions based on their soundness, and not even, for most of us, have a say in it; certainly not have a say during prime time or a say on the floor of the Senate.

Mr. President, I come today to talk about responsibility on behalf of our body and responsibility on behalf of the people of the United States, and I urge the majority to join with us to seek out recommendations such as those of Senator DOMENICI, seek out the sound advice of Senator VOINOVICH, and let's get our fiscal affairs in order. If we don't, we are going to waste more and more tax dollars and we are going to have more and more programs that go without oversight and we are going to spend dollar after dollar after dollar on old problems while our new problems and new challenges go unmet. It is not right for me, it is not right for you, Mr. President, and, most importantly, it is not right for the people of the United States.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, how much time remains on our side of the aisle on morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 14½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BROWNBACK. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I want to speak from the heart on two matters: one on my good friend, Paul

Wellstone, who died in a plane crash 5 years ago. Several speakers have spoken already, very eloquently, about Paul Wellstone, a wonderful man.

He and I disagreed on many issues in this body, and yet we had a wonderful relationship because of the nature of the person he was. He practiced the art of disagreeing without being disagreeable. It is a tough art to do, particularly in legislative bodies it can be very difficult. But he did it, and he did it very well. And he had a number of friends on both sides of the aisle from wide across the political spectrum.

Because of that attitude—and here is something I really want to say to my colleagues—Paul and I could get together on what I deemed to be the most important piece of legislation that I have been a part of here, as far as a primary sponsor, and that is the human trafficking work that he and I started—actually, his wife got him focused on it, and she was killed in the same plane crash—where we started seeing people trafficked into the United States and different places around the world, and we wondered what is going on with this dark underside of the globalization that is taking place. The way they saw it was his wife first started to see Ukrainian women trafficked into Minnesota and showing up at battered women shelters. They had been trafficked into prostitution in the United States and then had shown up at battered women shelters. And they said, how did you get here? Then they started backtracking the trail through gang activities, criminal activities, organized crime activities, that moved them from the Ukraine into the United States, into brothels, and then they were battered.

As they started to piece this together, they were seeing organized crime which now we know is in many cases involved in human trafficking around the world and is the third leading source of income for organized crime now—trafficking. Much of it is women or young girls, in many cases if not most, that they are trafficking and trafficking into prostitution.

Paul's wife first observed this. Paul got involved in it. I got involved in it, seeing it from another angle, and we were able to put together a coalition around that issue of human trafficking at an early phase, before we noticed that much. That included people from across the political spectrum. Paul and myself—he a dedicated liberal, myself a conservative—we had Gloria Steinem and Chuck Colson in this coalition, pushing for a bill against human trafficking, the first legislation we did here on that topic.

Because we were able to work together and reach out across the aisle and disagree about a lot of things but not be disagreeable and find common cause, we were able to deal with something that is a scourge on this planet. As we globalize, walls come down, people are moved, many times illicitly, in many cases brutally, and in a lot of